

The Message of John The Baptist Mark 1: 4-8  
I have read it said of Billy Sunday,  
There was a man sent from God whose  
name was Billy. Billy Sunday, who upon  
his conversion left the fame and stardom of  
Major League baseball to preach a message  
of repentance of sin, was mightily used of  
God to shake our nation, less than 100  
years ago. He was a man with a zeal for  
your face message of the saving Gospel of  
Jesus Christ. Thousands came out to make  
shift temporary buildings to hear and see this  
man sent from God. That initial quote was a  
take off of the original man w/a message John  
Baptist. The principles gleaned from the life  
and message of John can be applied to our lives. <sup>EC life connects a message.</sup>

### I. The Announcement of the Message <sup>Vs 4</sup>

We remember from last week that, Mark  
attributes the beginning of the Gospel, the  
gospel actualizes on the stage of humanity w/  
the fulfillment of Mal 3:1 + Is 40:3: A man  
with a message, Mat 3:1; Luk 3:3; Acts 19:4;  
He didn't negotiate, or hesitate; He didn't  
atologize or rationalize. He came with a  
new message from God that was to Repent!  
you are going the wrong way. Turn!  
Prepare your hearts for the coming  
Messiah. His message cut right to the  
heart + heart to the religious leaders + to the

into what God is truly after. Your heart!  
This baptism is a public confession of sins  
to God. An outward picture of what God  
has done personally in the heart of an individ-  
ual. Water doesn't wash away sin, Heb 9:22

the word for could be unto. Unto the blood of Messiah  
II The Attraction of the Message v3

Mark used word all, as hyperbolic (Ex: Every  
one is going out to see this movie) Vast amounts. Are  
estimate 100,000's. Why? what was the attraction?  
The Truth - John was preaching the truth  
that it seems everyone was skirting around, that  
their hearts had departed from God. John spoke  
to the conscience. Ever listened to preacher "Hess is Right"  
To agree with John's message was to agree w/  
God. And that is the exact meaning of Confessing  
sin. They came and publicly acknowledged their  
sin. Speak to conscience - get reaction. They came and heard truth

The Time - There had been 400 years of  
silence. No prophets from God. Many argued  
the word, taught the word, stressed the scriptures  
But none with the zeal of God in his heart  
and a Thus Sayeth the Lord on his lips  
for 400 yrs. But now theres this strange man  
outside town, that thunders with the authority of

III The Adornment of the Message v6

But it was not all about a verbal message  
alone. Part of the attraction was this strange  
looking man and the life he lived. Titus 2:10

Matthew 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness... Luke 3:3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;... Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.

John 1:26-27 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not: He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

John 3:28-30 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this

Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.



Barclay - To look at the man was to be reminded, not of the fashionable orators of the day, but of the ancient prophets who lived close to the great simplicities and avoided the soft and effeminate luxuries which kill the soul.

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His Attire - The man clothed indicated what he daily wore. This was unusual dress. 2 Kings 1:8 indicates that John's garb was akin back to the great Prophet Elijah. John looked like

a prophet! He didn't wear what the world around him wore. Barclay, I know some of you could give a flip about walking w/ God, that's why I don't. His Appetite - According to Lev 11:22-23 eating of locusts was permissible. Wild honey could be found in wilderness rock fissures and clefts. His appetites were not for what the worldly pleasures had to offer, but he lived on bare minimum poorest of diets, yet out there in that wilderness, he was bearing something that no one else was hearing. Well

never hear until our appetites change, <sup>John's life is Christ's</sup> old life of

#### IV The Aim of the Message v 7

Unlike so many today, that came with an ever so disguised underlying desire of exaltation, John aimed his sights at the coming Messiah. It was a Christ Heralding Message - Can you imagine what went through hearers' minds? Thousand + Thousands along the river bank and there is one mightier coming. John did not minimize the message of Christ to make a name for himself, No he majored on it.

His calls of repentance were in reference to Christ's coming. It's not my ministry, my church, my calling... It was a Self Humbling Message - He not only exalting Christ but he is chasing him. 1000 The roads were dusty and muddy. The



John of the lowest servant in the house was to remove the sandal and wash feet. John says that I am so low and unworthy that I should not even be allowed to do the work of the lowest. But in Mt 11:11 "none greater" How? Mt 23:12, The way up <sup>is down</sup>

## V The Actualization of the Message -

John Baptist is the last of the OT prophets. These prophets always pointed ahead to a completed work. Blood pointed ahead. Prophets pointed ahead. The immersion of Holy Ghost - John baptizes in symbol, but with the coming of Christ the baptism is actual. Baptize with means to be immersed in. I have read that the word translated baptize used one other place, recipe for pickles. Cucumbers are immersed in vinegar and are changed into pickles. This is a word depiction of regeneration <sup>Tit 3:5 work</sup>. The indwelling of Holy Ghost - You will find that in the old testament, the Spirit of God would rest on a person and enable them to complete a task. But upon the finished work of Christ, the Holy Ghost is given as an inner indweller, the earnest of our inheritance, the down payment, 1 Cor 6:19. We are inhabited and empowered by this Blessed Spirit.

## VI Closing - I read an illustration long ago when someone was making a telephone call through an operator and there was some delay, the operator would often say, "I'm trying to connect you." Then when the connection was

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased;  
and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but  
according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration,  
and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of  
the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not  
your own?

...made the operator faded out and left the person in direct contact  
with the person to whom he wished to speak. John's on aim was not  
to occupy the center of the stage himself, but to try to connect men  
with the one who was greater and stronger than he...